

paratively small amount as security, the duty being left to be realised at the time of the actual sale. A total quantity of 166,948 maunds was removed to Alleppey by the licensees during 1104 under this arrangement.

Excise.

26. In accordance with the avowed policy of Government to promote temperance, advantage was taken of the opportunity afforded by the renewal of the biennial abkari contracts from the beginning of 1104 to reduce the number of country liquor (toddy and arrack) shops from 1,832 to 1,744 or by nearly five per cent. The rates of tree tax for cocoanut and palmyra were enhanced throughout the State and that for *choondapana* in the *pakuthies* on the Cochin frontier. The rates of duty on jaggery arrack and cocoanut toddy arrack were also enhanced. The price of ganja issued from treasuries to independent shop-keepers was raised from Bh.Rs.27-8 annas to Bh.Rs.30 per seer from the 1st April 1929. The system of local option was introduced experimentally in the Changanacherry Municipality in 1104. About 90 per cent. of the Municipal voters declared themselves in favour of the closing of liquor shops in the town.

Local Option. Government accepted the decision of this large majority and ordered the shops to be closed tentatively, till the end of 1105. In order to afford greater facility for carrying out the spirit of this act of abstention on the part of the people the Government of its own accord ordered the only foreign liquor shop in the town also to be closed and reduced to two drams the quantity of arrack that could be possessed or transported without a license. The experiment is being watched with great interest.

Public Health.

27. Since the close of 1104, two new dispensaries and six new conservancy stations have been established. The outstanding feature, however, of public health activities in the State during the year was the adoption of a programme of public health work for the year 1105 presented by Dr. Jacocks, the representative of the Rockefeller Foundation. After a preliminary study of the local conditions, Dr. Jacocks prepared a comprehensive scheme of public health work as well as a modest programme of work to be carried out during the current year. This programme has been sanctioned and the work commenced. It comprises the survey of hookworm and malaria, entomological research on malaria, filariasis and plague, public health education and propaganda, maternity and child welfare, and the organisation of health units. The last two items are to be tried experimentally and their continuance and extension will depend upon the successful results of their practical working and the extent of the funds that could be made available in future years. Mr. M. K. Gopala Pillai, Superintendent, Vaccine Depot, and Mr. N. Krishnan Tampi, Health Officer under the Trivandrum Municipal Council, have been deputed to America for special training in public health for one year, the former on a fellow-

ship of the Foundation and the latter at the cost of the Government. The question of the organisation of a Public Health Department will be taken up on the return of the two candidates after training. In the meantime, the public should whole-heartedly co-operate with the staff engaged in the new activities. I am sure that I may on your behalf promise such co-operation and I take this opportunity of publicly thanking the Foundation and its local representative for their good offices in this matter.

Education.

28. Steady progress was maintained during the year in education. The total strength in English schools rose by 4.5 per cent. and that in the vernacular schools by 5 per cent. The University Inspection Committee visited Travancore during the year. The full report of their inspection has just been issued. The Women's College was affiliated for the B. A. Degree course in Mathematics, and the Junior B. A. class in that branch was opened from the beginning of the current academic year. The College has also been affiliated for the Intermediate course in Indian Music and a lady graduate is now under training in the Annamalai University for appointment as Lecturer in that subject. Two European ladies, with English University qualifications, were appointed to the College, Miss Grose as Principal and Professor of English and Miss Ouwerkirk as Professor of History. Two graduates were selected and sent for training in the Y. M. C. A. School of Physical Culture at Madras with a view to their being eventually appointed as Physical Instructors in the Colleges of Arts and Science.

Revision of Pay of Vernacular School Teachers.

29. In 1104 the Government sanctioned a revision of the pay of the teachers in vernacular schools. The revision is based on the recommendations of a committee appointed in 1926 in pursuance of a resolution of the Legislative Council. A special staff is engaged in working out the details of the revision which is to be given effect to retrospectively from the 1st Chingom 1104. The principles underlying the revision of pay may be briefly stated. The higher rates of pay given to women teachers from 1912 have been discontinued, as there is at present no lack of qualified women candidates, the higher salaries now held by them being, however, secured to them by means of personal scales. Time-scales of pay have been introduced in respect of most appointments. A uniform scale of Rs. 15-1/2-18 is adopted for the lowest grade teachers, and heads of institutions are to be given somewhat higher scales. The emoluments of teachers of special subjects, *viz.*, Munshies, Bhagavatars, Sewing mistresses, Drill masters and Drawing instructors, have been raised and standardised. The revision benefits the teachers of Middle Schools as well. Side by side with the increases granted to the teachers employed in departmental schools, the rates of grant for those in private schools have also been enhanced. This general increase of salaries will, it is hoped, not only conduce to greater contentment but also tend to promote efficiency.